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To The Honorable Ronnie White, District Court Judge,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my son, Jared Diehl, who is very intelligent, caring, and loving. He has two younger brothers who recently graduated high school, and he views himself as a role model for them to get a college education. I am very proud of his hard work, which led him to graduate from college with honors in the spring of 2021, so he could start his future career and become independent. He consistently displayed a solid academic work ethic and was motivated to reach his goals no matter the difficulty. His goal was to become a professional programmer, using the skills he started to teach himself in high school.

Jared's transition to college was successful. He showed a massive turnaround from the middle and high school challenges. The difficulties were due to ADHD, social anxiety, and depression. He created several new relationships at the beginning of college. Jared responded successfully to extensive therapy during high school from Crider Behavioral Health, FACT Partnership with Families, and the school's homebound classes with his IEP (Individual Education Plan). He also received support from Vocational Rehabilitation from the State of Missouri. He was diagnosed on the autism spectrum with symptoms of Asperger's syndrome, and I feel he will benefit from continued treatment from professionals familiar with Asperger's and Autism.

Jared was very proud to complete his Bachelor of Computer Science with a Minor in Mathematics, obtaining a 4.0 GPA from UMSL, especially since his mother and I did not complete college. Jared loves to learn and has received scholarships for UMSL. He was proud to graduate Summa Cum Laude, as it was his ultimate goal. Jared saw the importance of a college education to start a successful future. He attended LaunchCode concurrently to learn more about computer programming and to meet more like-minded developers. He always tried to work ahead, go above and beyond on projects, and help other students. He received recommendations from his professors and did work at UMSL to support his professors. He regularly stayed in the lab to study more, even if it meant sacrificing sleep. Students looked to him as a lead when working on projects.

Jared was well-behaved in school and respectful of the rules at home and school. He played on roller hockey, soccer, and baseball teams as a child. His hobbies were skateboarding, playing guitar, drawing, and building legos. Now, his hobbies are Rubik's Cubes and Chess. At 18, he became interested in the Rubik's Cube and quickly mastered many ways of solving it. He has met many talented people with the same skill over the years at over a dozen national competitions. In the summer of 2015, he was passionate about breaking the world record for the most cubes solved underwater in a single breath, but in 2016 he decided that school was more important to give focus. In 2017, he successfully organized two national competitions at St.

Charles Community College, each with 100 competitors. He enjoys discussing math ideas with his younger brother and frequently does problems on the whiteboard at the house. He also enjoys going to Cardinal baseball games, taking care of his dogs, kayaking, hiking, and fishing. He sometimes takes things apart to see how they work. When he was 20, he witnessed a flock of baby ducks trapped in a storm drain and felt the need for urgency to save them.

Jared was employed at several companies while in college. He started his first job at McDonald's and pursued more significant roles of responsibility. Later, he joined Walmart and Kohl's to help pay for college. After completing general education at SCC, he joined Accenture as an intern web developer for a short time. At the beginning of his time at UMSL, he started an apprenticeship, with help from LaunchCode, at True Manufacturing, which became a full-time position. After consistent study and hard work for several years, he landed his first meaningful job at Infoscitex as a software engineer after graduating college. Jared was proud to pay off his student loan after graduating and discussed returning to school several times to complete a master's degree. He was very passionate about his work; I observed him often going to work early and staying late, willing to do more than required. I feel he has enormous potential. Since his prosecution earlier this year, he has worked a warehouse position during the night shift at Amazon.

I acknowledge the crime that has brought Jared to the current situation and witness daily Jared's great remorse and shame for what he did. He has a robust support system from his family, and I will always be available to support him. He displays a strong work ethic and a tireless motivation to learn to become a productive member of society. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik J Diehl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erik" and last name "Diehl" clearly distinguishable.

Erik J Diehl